



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Wednesday, May 25, 2005

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, May 25, 2005****Members Present**

Honourable Brendan Bell, Mr. Braden, Honourable Paul Delorey, Honourable Charles Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Mr. Hawkins, Honourable David Krutko, Ms. Lee, Honourable Michael McLeod, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Pokiak, Mr. Ramsay, Honourable Floyd Roland, Mr. Villeneuve, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Zoe

---Drumming and Singing

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Thank you very much for that performance. We will have an opportunity to see more performances from the Inuvialuit Drummers and Dancers in the Great Hall. I would ask you now to please rise as Chaplain Major Karen Hoeft delivers a prayer for us.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Major Hoeft. I'll ask the Clerk, would you ascertain if His Honour the Commissioner is prepared to enter the Chamber and open the Fourth Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly.

ITEM 2: OPENING ADDRESS

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. Tony Whitford): Mr. Speaker, Members of the 15th Legislative Assembly, it is an honour to be your Commissioner for the next three years. I look forward to serving the people of the Northwest Territories and to meeting as many of them as possible while carrying out my duties of my office.

I am especially pleased to be back among you in this Legislative Chamber, and to be back in my old chair once again.

---Applause

This is the Year of the Veteran, and I would like to thank the northern veterans, on behalf of us all, for their courage and for their sacrifices while in the service of our great country. This year we also celebrated the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe, VE Day, and the end of the Second World War, an important day in world history that we must never forget. Were it not for the bravery of men and women like our northern veterans, the privileges we now enjoy as a society today may have been denied us. We are in your debt.

---Applause

Recently, I had the great honour and pleasure of meeting Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at the centennial celebrations in Saskatchewan. The celebrations marked 100 years since the creation of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. This is a milestone for the Northwest Territories as well, as the creation of Alberta and Saskatchewan from the vast Northwest Territories marked an important stepping stone to the geographical evolution of our territory.

It was a tremendous honour to represent the people of the Northwest Territories at the centennial celebrations.

Please join me in congratulating the people of Saskatchewan and Alberta in this, their centenary year.

---Applause

During this session, the Government of the Northwest Territories will be introducing the following bills entitled, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006 and Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005 for consideration by the House. The government considers these bills essential to the good conduct of government business and, as such, I recommend their passage.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I now declare open the Fourth Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

---Applause

Speaker's Opening Comments

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Good afternoon, Members. Welcome back to the Chamber. Welcome also to our distinguished guests and visitors who have joined us in the gallery today for the opening of the Fourth Session of the 15th Legislative Assembly. Colleagues, I trust that you are all eager to get down to business, so I won't ramble on too long.

First I would like to take an opportunity to acknowledge and thank, on behalf of all Members, individuals who have contributed to making the opening of the Fourth Session a remarkable one here today. In particular, I would like to thank the Honourable Tony Whitford, Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, for opening our session. Thank you very much, Commissioner.

---Applause

For those of you who are not aware, our esteemed Commissioner will be honoured along with 12 other residents of Rae-Edzo, Hay River, Fort Smith and Yellowknife for their community contributions in the ceremony of the Order of St. John this evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. Mr. Whitford will be appointed as Vice Prior of the Order of St. John, which is approved by the sovereign head of the Order of St. John, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, and by Her Excellency, the Governor General and Prior of the Most Venerable Order of St. John in Canada. I am sure you will all join me in offering our congratulations to his honour and the other deserving recipients.

A special thank you to the Mildred Hall Choir for singing O' Canada for us, the very talented Inuvialuit Drummers and Dancers, and our honorary chaplain today who lead us in prayer, Major Karen Hoeft of the Salvation Army. As everyone is aware, Major Hoeft and her family will soon be leaving the North to carry on their work in Winnipeg,

Manitoba. On behalf of all Members, I would like to wish Majors Karen and Al Hoeft best wishes for the future and thank you for all your good work you have done in the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

On a matter of House services, I am pleased to announce to all Members and to the residents of the Northwest Territories that we will be enhancing our language services in the Chamber this session.

---Applause

Each day we will provide interpretations in two of the official languages so that in each week every language will be available in this House and for rebroadcast to the people of the Northwest Territories on APTN. I am pleased to announce that our languages for today are French and North Slavey.

This week in the House, we will be served by Pages from St. Patrick High School in Yellowknife; Chief Julius School, Fort McPherson; Moose Kerr School, Aklavik; and ?ehtseo Ayha School in Deline. Good luck to all of you and I'm sure you will do a fine job for us.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize some of our special guests with us in the gallery today: Honourable Justice Ted Richard of the Supreme Court of the NWT;

---Applause

His Worship Gordon Van Tighem, mayor of Yellowknife;

---Applause

NWT Chamber of Commerce president Steve Meister;

---Applause

the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew;

---Applause

Lieutenant Scott Archer, Canadian Forces Northern Area Headquarters;

---Applause

Inspector Roch Fortin, officer in charge of Yellowknife RCMP detachment;

---Applause

Pastor Connie Landstrom;

---Applause

the Right Reverend J. R. Sperry;

---Applause

Ms. Katherine Peterson, Legislative Assembly Law Clerk;

---Applause

Major Al Hoeft of the Yellowknife Salvation Army;

---Applause

Consul General of France, Monsieur Jean-Yves Defay;

---Applause

Madam Marie Noelle Defay;

---Applause

and, Mr. Ted Hughes, Conflict of Interest Commissioner of the NWT.

---Applause

Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

Colleagues, before we continue with the orders of the day, I would like to note that respect for each other and the House is something I know you will all continue to practice. Your constituents are better served by constructive and respectful debate.

Orders of the day, the honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 1-15(4): Sessional Statement

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to provide Members of the Legislative Assembly with a short update on a number of important initiatives we have undertaken since the last sitting of this Legislative Assembly, initiatives that strengthen our partnerships both within and outside of our territory.

This is an interesting time in Canadian politics. It's a time that brings forth both opportunity and challenge for our territory. As we witness the political situation in Ottawa, we must continue to focus on partnering with the federal government in areas of importance to this territory.

The uncertainty created by the minority government, combined with the development potential of our territory and the heightened interest this brings, creates a political environment offering great opportunity, if we work together. This means we need to articulate a clear vision and set of priorities, and communicate this in a unified voice to Ottawa.

Each of us in this Assembly has a job to do, to keep the priorities of the Northwest Territories on the radar of the federal government. We are in the midst of unparalleled development, development not only benefiting the residents of the Northwest Territories but all Canadians. It is for this reason that all Members of this Legislative Assembly joined aboriginal and business leaders in hosting an NWT Day in Ottawa on April 5th.

The primary purpose of NWT Day was to meet with the federal Ministers and MPs to deliver an important message, a message about the need for the federal government to invest in this territory and work with northerners. The NWT is at a crossroads, the potential of our territory is tremendous, potential for development, for investment, for community and individual self-reliance, for shared benefits and wealth unprecedented in our history.

Mr. Speaker, the next logical and important step in the political and economic evolution of this territory is to see northern government, both public and aboriginal, take on the responsibility to manage its resources and to control

the nature and pace of development, not to have it set for us by federal or private interests. In the interim, we need to see the federal government provide additional revenues to deal adequately with the pressures brought on by the rapid development we are experiencing in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the work undertaken by the Members of this Legislative Assembly in partnership with the members of the Business Coalition and aboriginal governments who participated in NWT Day in Ottawa contributed greatly to move us closer to the resolution of these goals.

Since that time, the federal government has made a real commitment to work with this government and the affected regions along the pipeline route to provide additional interim funding to deal with the serious challenges our communities face to prepare for and deal with the development of this important project. We have been working with the leaders of the impacted regions to develop a plan to address these concerns.

But, Mr. Speaker, the long-term solution remains the negotiation of a fair devolution agreement that transfers responsibility for resource management to northern governments and makes northerners the primary beneficiaries for the development of their resources. The Prime Minister made a commitment last December to work with us to reach an agreement-in-principle by this spring. Deputy Prime Minister McLellan, Minister Goodale and Minister Scott reiterated this commitment during meetings in Ottawa recently. While we appreciate the public commitment made by the Prime Minister and his Ministers, we now need to see this resolve followed through at the negotiation table so that the remaining issues can be dealt with in the coming weeks.

Mr. Speaker, another important example of the work we are doing with the federal government is to develop a Northern Strategy that provides a comprehensive policy basis to guide decision-making for years to come. With the launch of this strategy last December, the Prime Minister made an important commitment to the three northern territories. He made a commitment to work jointly with us to develop a comprehensive vision for the development of the North.

But the Northern Strategy is not, and should not, be considered a partisan exercise. It is about nation building and creating new vitality and prosperity in the Canadian federation through the strengthening of Canada's territories. It is important that the leaders of all parties in the House of Commons endorse the principles underpinning the strategy, and we have been working hard to ensure the other parties in the House of Commons understand and support the development of this strategy.

Mr. Speaker, another significant event occurred last month in Inuvik when northern leaders gathered at the second annual Circle of Northern Leaders to discuss the priorities that should be addressed in the Northern Strategy. It was clear the single most important priority must continue to be the pressing social and economic needs of our communities; better tools to deal with alcohol and drug problems; a responsive health delivery system; adequate housing and infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, these priorities reflect the common themes that have emerged from responses we have heard from

individuals and in our many meetings with stakeholder groups. This work will culminate in a draft NWT chapter of the Northern Strategy with the following priorities:

- building healthy, sustainable communities;
- working towards self-reliance and self-determination;
- protecting the environment and developing clean energy;
- building capacity; and,
- improving the health of our residents.

This round of consultations has concluded for the Northwest Territories. We are now developing a draft document incorporating all that we have heard. This document will not only identify these priorities but also the commitments required by governments to see them realized. It must lay the foundation for a new working relationship between the federal and northern governments that accurately reflects the important place this territory plays in the federation.

We expect the first draft of the Northern Strategy will be released next month. It will be a living, changing document guiding decision-making processes in the years to come. It will continue to evolve in order to reflect the changing priorities and circumstances of northerners, a feature essential to the NWT, as we know the immediate future will bring great change to our territory.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to make note of two other important forums we participate in to advance the interests of the Northwest Territories.

The Northern Cooperation Accord signed by the three territories in September 2003 provides opportunities to work together on issues of common concern. In April, I had the pleasure of hosting the third annual Northern Premiers' Forum in Yellowknife. It was an opportunity to work with Premier Fentie and Premier Okalik to review the work each of the territories have undertaken on the Northern Strategy and to discuss issues under this year's theme of "Working Together for Shared Success."

It is important to note that the cooperative approach we have taken with our northern neighbours over the past several years has served the interests of all three territories. By working together, the three territories have realized additional federal funding commitments in areas such as health, our territorial financing agreements and in specific initiatives such as the Northern Strategy.

More importantly, we have also made significant progress on ensuring federal funding is allocated to the three northern territories in a manner that ensures it can have a meaningful impact. This means contributions that provide an adequate base funding level in addition to our normal per capita allocation.

Mr. Speaker, we also work with our colleagues in the western provinces and northern territories through the Western Premiers Conference to advance our interests. Earlier this month, I was pleased to join western and northern Premiers of this year's conference in Lloydminster. As Members are aware, this is the centennial for the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and the border city of Lloydminster was chosen to host

this event to recognize this important centenary in both provinces.

The primary issue of discussion at the meeting was the need for action against the growing use of crystal meth. The use of this drug is spreading at an alarming rate and although its use has yet to hit northern communities to the extent it has in southern Canada, we know there is an urgent need to take proactive steps to deal with the problem across jurisdictions to curb its manufacture and use before it becomes a crisis in the North. The Government of the Northwest Territories will participate in a meeting of Health, Justice and Public Safety Ministers in early June to continue to share best practices and develop strategies on education, prevention, treatment and policing for crystal meth.

Another significant area of focus was on labour market shortages in the North and West. An important focus of these discussions was about finding ways to address the low participation rates of aboriginal peoples in the labour force.

We agreed to work jointly on a strategy to deal with the critical labour shortages in western and northern Canada including working with employers and labour groups to identify best practices for the training and development of workers. Premiers will also bring western and northern aboriginal leaders together this summer to develop and implement a western Canadian aboriginal training strategy.

Mr. Speaker, we have been busy since the need of the budget session in working with our partners on issues of importance to this territory. This has required the collective effort of all Members of this House. I would like to thank all Members for their work and look forward to continuing our collaborative approach this summer in meeting our aboriginal government partners during their respective annual assemblies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier Handley. Item 3, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Minister Handley.

Minister's Statement 2-15(4): Year Of The Veteran

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, 2005 has been designated as the Year of the Veteran. This is an important declaration that pays tribute to the courage and sacrifice of our veterans. As well, 2005 is also the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, including the recent anniversary of Victory in Europe on May 8th, VE Day, and in the Far East on August 14th, VJ Day.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is pleased to join all provinces and territories in recognizing the significant contributions of veterans during this 60th anniversary year. It is an opportunity for our government, in partnership with community groups and agencies, to recognize veterans throughout our territory during the coming months. We are extremely fortunate to live in a country where we enjoy peace, democracy and the freedom to pursue our personal goals. This is the lasting legacy of all Canadians and allied veterans.

Mr. Speaker, we are honoured to have some of our veterans in the gallery today. We are also joined by representatives of groups and agencies that are planning events for the Year of the Veteran.

The events planned for the Year of the Veteran are an expression of gratitude to war service veterans and veterans of the Canadian Forces. It gives me great pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to highlight some of the activities that are being planned in the Northwest Territories:

- The City of Yellowknife's annual picnic on June 19th will include a commemoration of NWT veterans;
- The Northwest Territories and Nunavut Aboriginal Veterans Association is planning to recognize veterans on National Aboriginal Day, June 21st;
- Commemorations on Canada Day will be held by various groups in a number of communities, including the Holland Association of the High Arctic, Scouts, the Rotary Club and Yellowknife Seniors Society;
- Special remembrance ceremonies will be held by the Royal Canadian Legion Vincent Massey Branch 164 on July 2nd to honour all war veterans and on November 11th for all NWT veterans;
- The Canadian Forces Northern Area Headquarters is working with the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre to prepare a Year of the Veteran exhibition this fall;
- The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre is holding an Amazing Sunday session on the Year of the Veteran as part of their series of family-oriented educational activities; and,
- Education, Culture and Employment is sending educational materials to all NWT schools and libraries for their use and display.

Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the activities planned to celebrate the Year of the Veteran. They reflect a commitment by community groups and agencies, individuals and this government to remember and celebrate the contribution of our veterans to our nation and our territory.

I ask all Members to join me in recognizing all Northwest Territories veterans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Housing Needs In Nahendeh

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. (English not provided)

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been approached recently by my constituents regarding the NWT Housing Corporation's possible policy changes regarding residential home loan guarantees. These changes will dramatically affect the accessibility and affordability of homes. Families' self-sufficiency within the communities have always been a top priority to me and the GNWT.

The NWT Housing Corporation must consult residents of the NWT when considering such drastic policy changes.

The NWT Housing Corporation has not approached the local governments, aboriginal communities, agencies and residents for input on this issue and to discuss possible solutions.

AN HON. MEMBER: Shame, shame.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, these changes, although not intended, will target aboriginals more than any other group in the NWT. For example, in one community in my riding there are no aboriginal families being given assistance in owning their own homes. The reality is many people in the communities are living eight to 10 people per house.

As long as I can remember, housing has been a primary issue in the North. Communities all over the North are experiencing overcrowded conditions, long waiting lists and aging units. The enormous strain affects the communities and the individuals in many ways. During a time when more resources and commitment are needed for housing, how can this government reduce resources and modify policies creating additional barriers for people who are striving to be self-sufficient?

People in my communities work hard. Families are expected to take on more and more financial responsibilities. The income gap is growing. They have contributed to our economies their whole life and when they need assistance, Mr. Speaker, for residential purposes, we must not let them down. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement On Celebrating Graduation Responsibly

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, Mr. Speaker, Inuvik lost one of our young people when Marshall Sayers perished while skipping on the ice with a snowmobile. I can't help but think that without alcohol, this would not have happened. Too many people in the NWT die because of alcohol. If we took out all the alcohol-related deaths, many more of our family members would still be with us today.

As young people, many of us have gone through this, and now, as adults, and hopefully grown up, we speak from experience when we ask that you not follow the same lifestyle. It's just not worth it. So many opportunities are out there for you to succeed and make a positive contribution to your community and the NWT.

With graduation festivities coming up in the next few weeks, we ask that everyone be careful and stay sober; enjoy your special day. I ask this as someone who has gone through it and found out that it's just not what it's cut out to be. I knew Marshall and I'm saddened by the fact that he was taken from his family before he should have been. I'm sure that the family will agree with me when I ask all the young people to learn from this and not have his death be in vain. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Member's Statement On Special Events In The Beaufort-Delta Region

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to welcome yourself and my colleagues on your safe return to attend the Fourth Session of the 15th Assembly. Mr. Speaker, a number of special events have occurred recently in the Beaufort-Delta region that I would like to touch on today.

The Aurora College campus in Inuvik recently graduated 39 adults in various programs and I would like to congratulate Nellie Pokiak, Lena Pingo and Jenna Keogak.

On Friday, Mr. Speaker, May 27th, 2005, four students will graduate from the Helen Kalvak Elihakvik School in Holman. I would like to wish Robbie Inuktalik, Lori Ovilok, Fred Kataoyak and Tony Anak each success with their future endeavours.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Shaylene Lundrigan who represented the Nunakput region during the Youth Parliament. She did a very good job.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the mayor and council of Tuktoyaktuk, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Accountability and Oversight committee and the staff for holding the annual strategic planning meeting in my community and for taking the time to meet and talk with the residents of Tuktoyaktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Member's Statement On GNWT Program And Service Delivery Outside Yellowknife

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Let me just start by congratulating Mr. Tony Whitford on his appointment as the 15th Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. I really look forward to building a meaningful working relationship with the new Commissioner over the remainder of the 15th Legislative Assembly. I also would like to welcome all the distinguished guests in our gallery today.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not only thrilled to be back in the House, but also thankful that all of my colleagues are also here, safe and in good health. I'm optimistic that we can continue to work effectively and collaboratively to finding agreeable solutions and plotting positive directions to resolve many issues of concern raised by my constituents of Tu Nedhe and northerners alike.

Mr. Speaker, we're all aware of the recent political developments that have been unravelling in Ottawa over the past couple of months and I know the recent developments can have a profound impact on our Canadian political landscape which, in my view, could move the NWT into a more prominent role within the Confederation over the next decade and into the future.

But that is over there, Mr. Speaker, in Ottawa. What I want to talk about is here, in the NWT, and it's about our people. I would like to express my dismay with the haughty attitude and the low level of attention towards many grassroots issues in the smaller communities displayed by this government, namely our bureaucratic system.

During the Circle of Northern Leaders meeting in Inuvik in April 2005, all leaders clearly expressed the same concerns that I feel, in that it is imperative that this government begin working more collaboratively and closely with the residents of our smaller communities in the delivery of important programs and services, like housing, health, education and economic development and, also equally important, in the streamlining of our ever-growing bureaucracy here in Yellowknife, so that the other 32 communities in the NWT realize some of the many tangible benefits as people do here in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, I will commit to working on these territorial or what I deem to be very important home turf concerns so that they are given serious priority in this House. I hope that my colleagues here share this vision and my enthusiasm to developing and integrating agreeable solutions and working toward an equally prosperous territory across the board from Inuvik to Fort Smith, from Lutselk'e to Nahanni Butte. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Member's Statement On School Spring Break Timing In The Sahtu Region

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I was pleased to see part of our northern culture come into the Legislative Assembly, such as the feeding-the-fire ceremony and the drumming of the Inuvialuit people here.

Mr. Speaker, spring is outside, spring is in the air, and so are the geese and ducks. Many of the Sahtu people are still on their annual spring hunts while some of them are already out on the land and extending their time out there. It is a happy time out on the land, sharing nature's beauty and annual renewal.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, we accounted for over 451 people who went out on the spring hunts in the Sahtu region. Mr. Speaker, right now there are elders out on the land ready to share their wisdom and knowledge with the young people. Some of the young people are unable to go because of the school dates and they have to stay in the communities.

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that this is an enlightened society we profess to live in and that the government would recognize the cultural and spiritual importance of the spring hunts and make allowance for children whose parents want them on the land during the spring hunt, without suffering the consequences of missing school days. Children who are aware and proud of their history and culture will have a better sense of self-worth and will do better within the confines of the regular classrooms.

As an aboriginal person, I have close ties with the land. I have learned much of what I know from my parents and grandparents. At some point I'd like to share what little I know with my little son.

Alas, Mr. Speaker, under the present system, spring break is in March. Last time I looked, Mr. Speaker, March is not spring north of 60. What I'd like to see is spring break during spring. May is a good month for being out on the land. Even if you allow one week in March and another in May for spring breaks, we would be further ahead and be able to take our children out on the land for reasonable periods of time to do some spring hunting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Member's Statement On Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre To Hay River

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start my statement, I would like to welcome all the distinguished guests who are with us here today.

I'd like to use my Member's statement today to highlight the impacts of moving the Territorial Treatment Centre from Yellowknife to Hay River. I can understand and appreciate the politics that are at play when a decision like this is made. What I haven't seen is an actual business case for the move. I'd like to know how the Minister can say that workers in Hay River who lost their jobs with the closure of Dene K'onia will gain employment if and when the TTC is relocated to Hay River. That's at least 18 months from now and how could anybody wait that long for a job?

I've not heard from any of the employees at the TTC who are interested in relocating. The employees that are there today and the ones who come before them have made some very serious and substantive investments in our community and in our children.

What cannot be overlooked here is that the average length of employment by staff at the TTC, both full time and part time, is over five years. For the most part, all of the employees are long-term residents of Yellowknife at over 10 years per employee. These employees work under private contract and are notoriously underpaid compared to the equivalent work done under the public sector.

I'm worried that comments being made in the media are downplaying and dismissing the hard work and dedication of the staff at the TTC. Mr. Braden, the MLA for Great Slave, has noted that the move to Hay River will allow more children to be helped. How is this possible when 40 percent of the referrals to the TTC are from Yellowknife? Have we given any consideration to the clients that the TTC serves? What about the families and the children that will feel the brunt of this decision, the majority of children that will be located seven hours drive away from family and friends?

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is that this decision is going to impact 17 full-time employees, six part-time employees, and numerous families here in Yellowknife. I would like to

close by saying that typically I am in favour of decentralization when it makes sense. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will ask the Minister how this decision makes sense. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Member's Statement On Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre To Hay River

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, thank you. Following on the heels of my colleague's statement, I, too, want to address the matter of the proposal to relocate the Territorial Treatment Centre to Hay River.

For many years the NWT's only care facility, I believe, for young children with these severe behaviour problems has been the TTC facility here in Yellowknife.

For several months the idea has been in play to relocate this centre to Hay River. The proposal is based on some very expensive renovations to an existing old building with limited capacity, compared with putting those dollars into the now vacant Dene K'onia centre. This would expand capacity and, from information I have seen, it would be a good use of taxpayers' dollars and in the long-run be a better facility for the NWT's population of children with these problems.

In a newspaper story this week, I made known my views in support of this idea. What I did not emphasize in this interview, Mr. Speaker, was an equal concern for the 17 jobs now located at the TTC and for the families and children who would face disruption from such a move. Needless to say, I have heard from staff and parents who were very upset with my views.

I apologize to these people, Mr. Speaker, for not acknowledging their situation in this newspaper interview. I am hoping to arrange a meeting with the staff and I want them to know that I will make sure that their situation is fully represented in this potential relocation. I would emphasize that it is far from being concluded.

Mr. Speaker, as MLAs we are often confronted with situations that conflict between our own local priorities and those that might serve the territory as a whole. This is a classic example of that kind of conflict. I want to assure my constituents that I will work for a solution that will be in their best interests and the best interests of the children of the Northwest Territories and of the resources of the territorial government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement On Closure Of Justice Facilities In Hay River

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I devoted an extraordinary amount of air time during the budget session to the loss of Justice jobs, programs and services in Hay River. It potentially directly impacted a total of 40 jobs. It impacted the open custody

young offenders' facility, our court registry and the closure of our remand unit at the South Mackenzie Correctional Centre.

I am pleased to recognize that the planned closure of the court registry was reversed. The closure of the remand centre proceeded on April 15th, in spite of a unanimous motion of the Regular Members to reinstate the funding for this service. I will be speaking to the fallout from that decision during this session.

Mr. Speaker, the closure of the young offenders' facility also took effect on April 1st. This caused considerable hardship for many of the workers and their families, as transfers to other communities and other jobs, in some cases, have split families up for the foreseeable future.

On a much happier note, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the Minister of Health and Social Services has identified a service which suits the valuable infrastructure of the Dene K'onia Young Offender Facility as a territorial treatment centre for youth. This will go some ways towards mitigating the impact of the losses in Hay River.

In the days ahead, I will be speaking to the issue of the remand closure and the need for our government to examine all and every practical and prudent decentralization initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Member's Statement On Importance Of The Aurora Borealis To Japanese People

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I begin my statement, I wish to make a special announcement. My second son was born just over a month ago, on NWT Day. His name is Hudson; and if pooping and crying is healthy, he certainly is very healthy. Everyone is fine and I wanted to take this first opportunity to announce that.

---Applause

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I was invited by a Yellowknife Centre business to go to Japan and attend some aurora meetings. It was at their suggestion that someone with a political point of view come to see how important the aurora is to the Japanese people.

Mr. Speaker, I have come to realize that we have totally misunderstood the profound effect the aurora has on the Japanese people, not unlike the Muslim trek to Mecca or the spiritual walk down the Via Dela Rosa for the Christians.

Mr. Speaker, the Japanese Shinto population, which is all of Japan, loves nature, and to them there is a calling of three important tasks in their lifetime for every Japanese person. Mr. Speaker, I will tell you those three tasks of a lifetime as it was told to me. They were taught in every school, to every Japanese student in that country. Those three tasks are: first, you must visit your ancestral village; second, you must visit Mount Fuji; and the third one sent a true chill down my spine, which is you must see the aurora in your lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, that is beyond profound. That is simply amazing. We have the aurora here and to every Japanese person that is a goal in life, to come see the aurora once. It is no secret that the Japanese people love nature. The Shinto culture loves everything in the world, the importance of every single creature, and believes that it all has its own special spirit. If this sort of sounds familiar, well, it should. It is not that much different from the aboriginal people of the NWT, where they feel strong ties to the land and the creatures around.

Every natural thing is a gift from God, they believe; especially the aurora. It is a true spiritual trek for them in a lifetime, and coming to Canada is truly one of the biggest opportunities they believe they need to take. There is a spiritual draw to the beauty of the aurora that cannot be put into words. Today I am trying to do it justice, but you have to be Japanese to truly understand the full personal fulfillment.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we realize this and embrace this opportunity. Mr. Speaker, at this time I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While in Japan I took a couple of minutes of spare time to go and see the Canadian pavilion. Mr. Speaker, its main theme was aurora. Everything had the aurora logo on it, from its posters to its little hologram cards that say Experience Canada. Incidentally, the only card they couldn't keep in stock was the one with the aboriginal picture on it. They just flew out the door.

Watching Japanese people captivated by the light show with their personal enthusiasm was amazing. You would watch them filter out of the pavilion saying how can I go to Canada? Where do I go? Where do I sign up? No one was there to help them. I think we can do something about that. I watched that enthusiasm. I think this government can do something to captivate that enthusiasm.

It is time for bold moves, Mr. Speaker. It is time to create a solid presence in Japan. What I am suggesting is that this government takes a strong hold by opening an office in Tokyo, so the Japanese people can truly get over here to Canada, to the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, Ontario, B.C. and Alberta have offices in Japan and it is time we do, as well. We can only hold onto our reputation in Japan, that is that the Northwest Territories truly has the best aurora. We cannot hold onto that forever without demonstrating our respect for the Japanese people by going to their front door and showing them how important it is that they are a good customer to us.

In closing, when I was in Japan and I told people that I was from Canada, people said, I love Canada. When I told them that I am from Yellowknife, they all said, aurora. Mr. Speaker, let us capture that brand name and bring it straight here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Member's Statement On Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre To Hay River

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if I can top that. Mr. Speaker, I would speak also on behalf of the employees of the Territorial Treatment Centre who recently found out from the newspaper that they will be losing their jobs.

Mr. Speaker, as you can appreciate, jobs are about the most important thing for all of us, and it is never a good thing to find out that you will be losing your job down the road. To hear it from the newspaper is quite another story.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the department and the contractor who runs this centre are under negotiations and discussions to plan this. Having this sort of insensitive way in which this issue is being dealt with, I don't think is helping with the situation.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that in my time as an MLA I have had the opportunity to spend a good part of the day at this facility meeting with the staff, the administrator and the children who are housed in this centre.

Mr. Speaker, these young people come from all over the NWT. This is not a centre that treats mild to moderate behavioural problem children. This centre is a residential treatment program that looks after very difficult youth, Mr. Speaker. A lot of them are rooted in the community, they are housed in our schools, and they get very specialized services from our communities. Now with a stroke of decision of this government, they will be routed into another community as if they have no say, as if they are a completely transferable, non-feeling kind of people.

Mr. Speaker, we should be aware that 21 people, 15 of them full-time and six casual jobs will be lost as a result of this transfer. Mr. Speaker, the employees are asking why is it that the government decides to close a centre in another community, and just by a willy-nilly decision and as a balancing act or whatever it is, can just arbitrarily take 21 jobs and say we're just going to move them as if there are no families and real people involved behind these jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I understand we as a Legislature have to make tough decisions, but I don't think we should ever lose sight of the fact that we are talking about real people with real jobs, and we should really give consideration to what is involved. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that I am going to be...

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Lee, your time for your Member's statement is up.

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I simply conclude by saying, Mr. Speaker, I think this might be a

really classic case of robbing Peter to pay Paul, and in the end really it is not very beneficial. Mr. Speaker, I think one of the critical questions we have to ask is for the people who have lost jobs in Hay River, we are sympathetic to that and we have dealt with that issue a lot in this House, but in the end or even two years down the road will they be able to benefit from these jobs? I will be asking those questions. Does it make sense for the government to transfer 21 jobs that might not end up being held by those who lost their jobs? So those are the crucial issues that I think we have to address and I will be continuing that further in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 4, Members' statements. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity on this Year of the Veteran to recognize the veterans who are here with us today. Mr. Speaker, with us are Ruth Ann MacEachern-Spence, a World War II veteran;

---Applause

Mr. Dusty Miller, World War II veteran;

---Applause

Mrs. Ethel Wilson, World War II veteran;

---Applause

Mr. Gordon Carter, World War II veteran;

---Applause

Mrs. Jan Stirling, a veteran of Korea;

---Applause

Bishop John Sperry, World War II veteran;

---Applause

and Tom Eagle, peacemaker.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, if there are other veterans that I can't see but are here, I recognize them and apologize if I missed their names. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize an individual who has demonstrated tremendous patience and endurance these last 29 years and nine months, my wife, Jeri Miltenberger.

---Laughter

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome all the distinguished guests in the gallery. I don't think I'd be allowed to repeat all the names, but if I may just mention a couple of names; Mr. Ed Jeske, a distinguished elder in our community...

---Applause

...and Katherine Youngblut who is sitting next to Mr. Jeske. Also I'd like to recognize two people who work a lot to make my job easier everyday; Cathy Olson, my constituency assistant, and my mother, Taejeong Lee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the Aklavik drummers who were here for us today; Mr. Andrew and Eva Gordon; Phillip and Laurie Elanik; Dean (Manny) Arey; Barbara Archie; Colin Gordon; and also Cecil Greenland. I'd like to welcome you all, and along with them I'd like to recognize my delegation from the Mackenzie Delta who are sitting behind me. My constituency assistant, Ms. Liz Wright; her sister, Alice Charlie; her sister, June Tetlich, along with her son, Trevor Tetlich; Karen Wright-Fraser; and also Cathy Moore from the Mackenzie Delta.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize the president of the Royal Canadian Legion here in Yellowknife, Mr. Lloyd Lush. With Lloyd is Mr. Lorne Power, general manager of the Royal Canadian Legion. Welcome gentlemen.

---Applause

I'd also like to recognize a constituent of mine, Abel Kogiak, who has recently returned from the Voyageur Rendezvous in Rocky Mountain House. He was one of the original voyageur canoeists in 1970. Welcome, Abel.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize two out-of-town guests today sitting with Steve Meister and the mayor of Yellowknife, who were recognized earlier, the president of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, Ruth Kelly, and also director Guy Anderson who are here today for a number of meetings with the Yellowknife chamber. I believe Ms. Kelly also

delivered today's business club luncheon address. I'd like to welcome them to the Assembly. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My better half, Lucille, couldn't make it down here for the opening of session, but in her place I brought along my friend, Darren Pokiak...

---Applause

...also, my older son Bertram Pokiak in the gallery...

---Applause

...also, Mr. Speaker, my constituency assistant, Charlene Elias. I'd also like to say hi to Abel up there. He's a long-time friend of mine from Aklavik. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to recognize in the gallery the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew and thank her for all of the support that she's providing us in Ottawa.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Mrs. Laureen Donaldson, a resident of Wrigley, NT. It's nice to see her here today. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize my new constituency assistant, Meeka Kisoun. Welcome to the gallery.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, most of you here have known me for only six months, so you can appreciate the fact that someone can put up with me for 26 years. With that I'd like to introduce my wife, Judy.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize of Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic, the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew,

Minister of State for Northern Development; and her spouse, Mr. Leon Andrew. Also I'd like to recognize His Worship Mayor Gordon Van Tighem, the mayor of Yellowknife.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize also some of the distinguished members from the Northwest Territories who are here from outside of the capital. I'd also like to recognize constituent Ethel Blondin-Andrew and her husband Leon Andrew and the staff member Sarah Cleary to the House. Also, I would like to recognize Antoine Mountain from Fort Good Hope, a painter here in Yellowknife; and John B. Zoe from the Tlicho territory. Mahsi and welcome. Spring is out so it is hard to sit in here.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being one of the last to recognize visitors in the gallery, I think everyone I had on my list has been recognized, so I will just go through quickly. I have a special recognition to Right Reverend Bishop Sperry, Karen Wright-Fraser, Katherine Youngblut, Ed Jeske, His Worship Gordon Van Tighem, Chief Supreme Court Justice Ted Richard, MP Ethel Blondin-Andrew, chief negotiator John B. Zoe and, of course, to everyone else who didn't get recognized, and Sandy's mom. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this Year of the Veteran, it is a great honour to recognize two constituents who are veterans: Tom Eagle and Jan Stirling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a number of students who are here from Chief Jimmy Bruneau School. They are a class of Grade 10 with their teachers, Patti Turner and Chris Harrison. I would also like to recognize chief negotiator for the Tlicho Nation, John B. Zoe. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Zoe. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Well, with all that, if anybody in the gallery has been missed today, I want to welcome you here. It is definitely a pleasure to have the gallery full of audience to take part, especially today in the opening of a new session in the Legislative Assembly. Welcome and I

hope you enjoy your stay. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 1-15(4): Gymnasium For Nahanni Butte

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Normally, I would follow up my stunning Member's statement with a grilling and analytical question to the appropriate Minister. However, I have constituents and indeed a whole community, the community of Nahanni Butte, who are waiting on the Minister of MACA and this government's decision on the creation of a gymnasium in Nahanni Butte.

---Applause

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yeah!

MR. MENICOCHÉ: At what stage, Mr. Speaker, is the planning and the class D estimate for the gymnasium project in Nahanni Butte?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

Return To Question 1-15(4): Gymnasium For Nahanni Butte

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not surprised that this question has come forward. Mr. Speaker, the capital planning dollars that were allocated this year for the planning, and for the next coming years, are something that we want to discuss with the appropriate committee. Also, the dollars allocated for the municipal and rural infrastructure funding is also part of that discussion we would like to have. We have drafted letters requesting some time with the committee to make that presentation. I would like to be able to do that before I announce to this House where we are at with the actual projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 1-15(4): Gymnasium For Nahanni Butte

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would this discussion with the committees include any plan about how this government plans to have adequate recreational facilities in our communities and their long-term plans for that, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 1-15(4): Gymnasium For Nahanni Butte

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, our discussion is around the actual projects required in communities, some of the decisions or some of the allocations for projects that we have identified. We would like to be able to discuss that with the committee. We would like to explain and present our decisions and how we arrived at the certain projects or different projects that are on our list and how we see the money flying for future years. So there are things we would like to be able to present to the committee. The letter was just signed off by myself

yesterday. I hope to do that as soon as possible, pending the committee's time frame. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

Supplementary To Question 1-15(4): Gymnasium For Nahanni Butte

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to hear that response from the Minister of MACA. Indeed, with the federal government passing the budget, there is all this money that we have been waiting on; the gas money, the green money, the infrastructure money, the non-tax-based money. I am sure we can find some room in here for a gymnasium for Nahanni Butte. Perhaps the Minister can tell this House again at what stage the planning is at. In the springtime, he committed to a class D estimate. Is it going to be done this year?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 1-15(4): Gymnasium For Nahanni Butte

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, some of the dollars, I should clarify, have not been 100 percent approved yet. There has been some discussion with MRIF. That agreement has been signed, however, it still requires final reading by the federal government. We still require the federal government committee that has members from our MACA staff on it to review the projects that we bring forward. We would like to bring those projects to the standing committee to review, so we are still a little ways from where the Member would like us to be.

This year we have money allocated for planning and that's what we are working around to start the design and look at the class D estimate, as the Member has referred to. As soon as we have approval from this committee and from our management committee that will be reviewing all of our submissions, those things will happen over the summer.

We have not come forward formally with any decision on how the allocation breakdown should be on the gas tax money. We have a working group that has met a number of times that includes members from the tax-based municipalities and also our non-tax-based municipalities. We have not broken down and decided on the formula. We have to do that yet. We expect to have something agreed upon by this summer, so there are still a number of decisions that have to be made. We are working on it. There are, however, some recommendations that we would like to bring forward for review by the committee on the capital funding from this government and also from MRIF. So those things we would like to bring forward for discussion to the committee before we proceed to the class D estimate, as the Member has requested.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 2-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on messages and statements today about the proposal to

relocate the Territorial Treatment Centre operated by Bosco Homes in Yellowknife, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Could the Minister update the Assembly on the status of the plan for the potential relocation of the TTC? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 2-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The decision has been made by the government to relocate the program and we are in the initial stages of discussion with Bosco Homes. I have met with the board in Hay River. I have met with Bosco Homes' management and we are going to be taking the appropriate steps to have an orderly transition. We also have to look at working with Public Works and Services over the next number of months to do the planning for the renovations. The money was already in the budget; it has been carried over for this year. So we are in the relatively early stages, but we are moving towards a relocation of TTC to Hay River. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 2-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister advise what considerations or options have been included in this plan for future employment options for the Bosco Homes' employees currently employed here in Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 2-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there will be an opportunity for staff currently employed, if they wish, to look at transferring. Also Yellowknife has the benefit of having one of the hottest economies in the country, so there are significant job opportunities here. Yellowknife Health and Social Services will also be working with the staff to see what is available. So we will make every effort to ensure that we can minimize whatever personal disruption there is to current staff in Yellowknife as we look at the transition. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 2-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the information from the Minister. One of the questions that I received from a parent was to get some sense, Mr. Speaker, of where the residents at the TTC are from. We are trying to get a sense of what parts of the North are served by this facility in its present capacity. Could the Minister provide some sense, on a regional or territorial basis, where the residents are from who are now served by TTC? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 2-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, TTC, like Trailcross in Fort Smith, is a territorial facility that provides services to all the communities in the Northwest Territories. Currently, I understand there are four Yellowknife residents and four residents from other smaller communities outside of Yellowknife. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 2-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to get some sense of the demand or need for this kind of service. Right now, the Minister has advised that there are some eight being looked after. Is there indeed a waiting list? Do we have a capacity issue with this kind of facility and is there potential for utilizing the Dene K'onia centre as well as perhaps retaining some kind of service here in Yellowknife? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 2-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been a waiting list of up to seven individuals. Currently, I understand, there is a waiting list of one. So we are looking at utilizing Dene K'onia and when it comes to services in Yellowknife, there will continue to be the many services that are here for children. I would just like to remind individuals, as well, we are working on, at the urging of this House, our southern placements to see what repatriation possibilities are there both for children and for adults. That is an ongoing process that is currently underway, as well. So there will be no shortage of possible demand. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Not that question period has expired, but we do have some special guests out in the Great Hall. We have our Inuvialuit Drummers and Dancers who are going to perform for us. So the Chair will call a short break. I would ask you to join me in the Great Hall for some entertainment and to meet some of the folks out there and we will return at the sound of the bell. Thank you.

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MR. SPEAKER: I call the House back to order. Orders of the day. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 3-15(4): Spring Break In The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement today, I talked about the children, about needing them to go on a scheduled spring break and take advantage of our annual spring hunts on the land with their parents and elders. Can the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment tell me whether there

is a requirement by the department to hold spring breaks at certain times of the year? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 3-15(4): Spring Break In The Sahtu

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, Mr. Speaker. The only requirement that an education authority has, as stipulated in the Education Act, is that it sets out the number of instructional minutes that the students must receive. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 3-15(4): Spring Break In The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Then can the Minister confirm for me that the education authorities can decide on their own when spring breaks will occur in the year?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 3-15(4): Spring Break In The Sahtu

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is absolutely correct. Right now, spring breaks occur at different times of the year for different school district education councils. A lot of councils will take into account what cultural and on-the-land activities they could participate in and will set their spring breaks to reflect those. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 3-15(4): Spring Break In The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So if the citizens of the Sahtu region wish to change the dates of the spring break to take advantage of the traditional on-the-land spring hunt activities, they would then have to contact or lobby the Sahtu educational board. Is that correct? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 3-15(4): Spring Break In The Sahtu

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is correct. One of the reasons that we have DEAs and DECs is to allow that sort of local control. We expect that the school year will reflect what the communities and the families in the region want and expect and need to make sure that their cultures and traditions are reflected in the schools. So, yes, the school dates should reflect that. One of the other ways to do it would be not just by setting different dates for spring breaks, but would be, as some communities do, starting the school year close to the end of July or the very beginning of August, and then ending early in May so that the school year for many communities

does leave a lot of time in the spring for people to get on the land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 3-15(4): Spring Break In The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment if he would look into having children who may wish to go out on the land during the spring breaks as part of their educational curriculum so that they are not dinged for missing certain days of the school year, so that is maybe an educational social issue or health issue that is part of the curriculum. Would the Minister commit to look into some type of option that would support this initiative? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 3-15(4): Spring Break In The Sahtu

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I have already talked to the board chairs of all the DECs about this kind of programming. We have had a number of DECs that have implemented on-the-land programming as part of their regular educational program. Lutselk'e, in the last year, has had a very strong program. There have been a number of other ones. I know that there will be more in the coming school year. So that is an approach that is already welcomed and supported by the department. We encourage the Sahtu DEC to work with families and communities to explore the opportunities for doing so in that region, as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Question 4-15(4): NWT Tourism Office In Tokyo

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the heels of my Member's statement, I would like to pose questions to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. As we all know, the Minister is well educated in Japanese tourism so I don't have to go into the value and the dollar amounts that they bring to the Northwest Territories. With all of that said, Mr. Speaker, in brief, would the Minister look at the feasibility of creating an NWT office in Tokyo, Japan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

Return To Question 4-15(4): NWT Tourism Office In Tokyo

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me first start by applauding the Member's efforts to take the local company up on its offer to accompany them on a tour of Japan. I think it is important that we seek to better understand a number of different aspects of our tourism industry. I think this is certainly a good start. In terms of what we need to do going forward and how we look to develop the Aurora tourism industry, I met the other day with the new president of NWT Tourism. We have agreed

that -- and this has been ongoing for some time now -- we are pretty close to being able to roll out a proposed new model for tourism that will separate and make distinct the industry advocacy function of the organization, separate from the destination marketing aspect. I think this is a real departure from the current state of affairs. I think it will be a marked improvement. We need to come forward to committee to have discussion on how that might operationally work and what it will mean. I think we are scheduled to do that either late in the week or early next week. I look forward to that discussion.

All of this is building toward additional support, I hope, in the business plans for tourism and for the industry. There are a number of things we can do. The proposal, such as the one that the Member has made, sounds very interesting. I would like to learn more about what would be required to increase our presence on the ground in Japan. I am sure there are a number of options ranging from a full-blown office to probably contracting some support on the ground in Japan. I would like to talk to the Member more about that and to the committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 4-15(4): NWT Tourism Office In Tokyo

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's perspective on that, because it sounds very positive. On a further note, when I was in Japan, I noticed that, speaking to people and I heard from the Japanese people, a presence of Canada and the aurora as a concept has a very low to minimum or, even further, non-existence profile. That is really what I am concerned about. We have an opportunity for a major impact. With all of that being said, would the Minister look at creating maybe a joint working group between industry, Regular MLAs and himself to help maximize our aurora opportunities in the North for all of the North? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 4-15(4): NWT Tourism Office In Tokyo

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would certainly consider a range of options. I think the Member raises a very good point. After we sit down with committee, any initiatives moving forward would have to involve industry quite clearly. I think we recognize as a government that we can do more in terms of destination marketing. If our presence is very limited on the ground in Japan and we don't have much of a profile, then we need to do something to address that very quickly. I would like Members' thoughts. I would like committee's thoughts on this, and also industry. So we do have to find a vehicle or mechanism for making sure that our government can work closely with Regular Members and the committee and, indeed, the industry association. What form that might take is certainly something that is up for discussion and up for debate. I am prepared to have that discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

Supplementary To Question 4-15(4): NWT Tourism Office In Tokyo

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again on the heels of my Member's statement, I spoke about visiting the Canadian pavilion. It wasn't my intention to go to the pavilion, but I happened to be in the area so I made the extra effort to pop over for a few minutes and see the enthusiasm about the aurora. What I noticed key was the fact that the enthusiasm was built up to such a peak, then there was no one to send them in a direction of booking tours or acknowledging where to go, other than pointing to a map. Would the Minister take those types of comments and look into and investigate an opportunity that we can help promote the Northwest Territories as a destination of choice, rather than letting that enthusiasm fizzle away when they return home after visiting the Canadian pavilion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 4-15(4): NWT Tourism Office In Tokyo

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It sounds like quite a pent up demand for our product. We have to make sure that we have a way to deliver. There is no sense in creating this demand and not being able to satisfy it and not having someone on the ground ready to make sure we can channel people to the Northwest Territories. I think this speaks to our overall presence. I am very interested in hearing about the Expo site. As the Member knows, I haven't been. We did send a reconnaissance team, a couple of staff people, to see the pavilion. It wasn't yet fully constructed. I would like to take advantage of the Member's knowledge and sit down and talk about logistically how we can make sure that we build this and to not only the week of focus that we are going to have, but a presence of some sort throughout the four-month-long event to make sure that as people come and have questions, somebody is there to answer them and to channel this interest to the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bell. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 5-15(4): Access To GNWT Treatment Programs

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Earlier today, during Member's statements, we heard from Members about the concern raised about relocating the Territorial Treatment Centre program from Yellowknife to Hay River. The issue of access was raised. What is the government's policy with respect to regional access to territorial programs? There must be a policy in place which addresses this, because I know I spoke to this issue about services south of the lake until I was blue in the face in the last session. How big of a part does regional and community access play when it comes to territorial services? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 5-15(4): Access To GNWT Treatment Programs

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By definition, territorial facilities are there for the benefit of all 33 communities. Once again, by definition, the other 32 communities are going to have to generally travel to access the service that is in the one community where that service may be, be it Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Inuvik, Hay River, or anywhere else. When we have a territorial facility, we plan and budget for the travel that is required, as we will do in the case right now with TTC, which is here, and children come in from all the other communities. The process will be the same, only they will be located in Hay River. Children requiring that service will be transported down to Hay River. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 5-15(4): Access To GNWT Treatment Programs

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the thinking that precipitated this discussion about relocating this facility and this program was related to the availability and suitability of infrastructure which the territorial government presently owns and has maintained and invested money in. I was wondering if the Minister could speak to that issue of the infrastructure to accommodate the program in Yellowknife versus Hay River at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 5-15(4): Access To GNWT Treatment Programs

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, clearly this government has articulated the position that indicates they are willing to look at opportunities to decentralize services outside of Yellowknife when possible and feasible. In this case, we have an opportunity to access a facility that is about seven or eight years newer than the facility in Yellowknife. We had money already in the budget that we just have to transfer. It was vacant. It was an opportunity to in fact have a program run in a community that has the capacity to deliver the service at the same level, in my opinion, that is currently here. Those are the steps that have been taken. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 5-15(4): Access To GNWT Treatment Programs

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, just for clarity, in my Member's statement, I talked about the relocation and transfer of employees. Some other Members made reference to this being a move to offer employment to people who lost their jobs as a result of the Justice closure in Hay River. In fact, Bosco Homes is a private contract; there is no opportunity to transfer. It is not the intended purpose. The gap was referred to of 18 months, but was not the intended purpose to relocate to absorb the laid-off employees from the GNWT in a

private contractor's personnel group that would be considered to carry out the service? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 5-15(4): Access To GNWT Treatment Programs

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct; this is a contractual arrangement with Bosco Homes, which has been providing a very excellent level of service both in Yellowknife and Fort Smith for a good many years now. There will be an opportunity for people in Hay River, including those individuals who got laid off at Dene K'onia, to look at the jobs that are available, look at the job descriptions and the job requirements. If they are interested, they will be able to apply to access those jobs. It is our hope that that same opportunity will be given to those folks currently in Yellowknife if they want to transfer. Very clearly, there will be an opportunity there, but there is no direct relation to the program moving down there and the folks that used to be employed at Dene K'onia to be automatically given jobs. There will be positions out that have, in many cases, different job skills and skill sets required. They will be able to apply like everybody else. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 5-15(4): Access To GNWT Treatment Programs

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you. I certainly recognize the fact that we lost approximately 20 government jobs at Dene K'onia, including permanent and casual, and that 20 new private sector jobs will go some ways towards mitigating the loss in the community. As far as Hay River goes as a community, has thought already been given to the profile of the community in terms of opportunity, education, and ways of integrating these young people in programming in the community? Has Hay River been assessed from that perspective? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 5-15(4): Access To GNWT Treatment Programs

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Hay River has a history of being able to provide services to children. In fact, before there was a young offenders' facility there, there was a receiving home and Dene K'onia had other uses other than a young offender facility. So they're one of the largest communities outside of Yellowknife. They have a very high level of service in all the areas that are required to provide service to these children in need. So, yes, Mr. Speaker, we've looked at the capacity and it's my opinion and the opinion of the department that this program can be delivered very effectively in Hay River. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 6-15(4): Rationale For Treatment Centre Relocation

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask some questions picking up on my Member's statement from earlier today. I'm trying to understand the decision-making process by the government in its proposal to move the Territorial Treatment Centre from Yellowknife to Hay River. Not that I'm opposed to that happening fundamentally, but I'm just trying to understand how the decision was arrived at. Maybe the Minister could help me understand, because I haven't seen any consultation. I'm not on the Social Programs committee, but I haven't seen any consultation with Members of this side of the House or any type of business plan or business case for this happening. I'm just wondering if the Minister could let us know what the decision-making process was in this proposal. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return to Question 6-15(4): Rationale For Treatment Centre Relocation

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this issue has been on the table for some time, since the money was first put in the budget to renovate TTC a number of years ago and the money was carried over as we looked at possible alternatives given the age of the facility here in Yellowknife. So in the last number of months, more detailed work was done and some basic preliminary technical assessments were done of the building. The comparison between the two, given the government's stated position that they're prepared to look at opportunities to decentralize, was there was an opportunity here that presented itself and we made a decision to proceed with the planning to relocate the program on that basis. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary to Question 6-15(4): Rationale For Treatment Centre Relocation

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to again get back to the decision-making. I know the Minister spoke of money being spent on technical work and I think that work was done by FSC Architects here in Yellowknife on the current facility. I'm just wondering if that money was spent to see if the facility could actually be renovated to house the treatment centre for the immediate future here, or was the intention just to shut the facility down and that \$180,000 that was spent on that FSC contract actually was just spent with the full intention of moving the TTC out of Yellowknife and into Hay River. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return to Question 6-15(4): Rationale For Treatment Centre Relocation

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this decision is one that has some history, as the Member has indicated and I have talked about in this House. There were decisions made and there was some revisiting of some decisions. There was

initial work done to TTC, as well. We looked at Hay River. There was some work started in Yellowknife to look at what was possible there, as well. The decision was ultimately made before we were too far along any given track to move the program to Hay River and steps were made to do that. Any work that was initiated to look at TTC and be renovated in Yellowknife was ceased. The plan is now to refocus on the move to Hay River. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary to Question 6-15(4): Rationale For Treatment Centre Relocation

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering again, maybe the Minister could let us know when Regular Members of this side of the House might be able to actually see some evidence or business plan. Like I said, I'm not fundamentally opposed to something like this happening, but a case has not been made and I don't think you just do it just to do it. I think you have to make a case for it. There's certainly a number of questions that are left unanswered here and I'm wondering when the Minister could commit. I know I'm not on the Social Programs committee, but consult with us and show us the plan and show us how the clients are going to be impacted on this transfer to Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return to Question 6-15(4): Rationale For Treatment Centre Relocation

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's our intention to build a lot of this detail with regard to this particular program into the upcoming business planning process, which is already in the developmental stage. We will be coming forward, given the time frame of 18 months, to do that. So there will be an opportunity for the Members to look at the detail both on the capital side and on the program side. But I want to assure the Member and this House that very clearly, in my opinion as Minister and as a Minister who has experience in running child welfare programs of this nature, that this program is going to be able to be delivered effectively in Hay River and we intend to make sure that there is no diminishment in service capacity. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary to Question 6-15(4): Rationale For Treatment Centre Relocation

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Talking about infrastructure and the use of that infrastructure, I'm just wondering the money that was spent at the current TTC, has any thought been given to having a look at the Somba K'e lodge, the piece of public infrastructure that sits empty on the Detah access road, to house a program like the Territorial Treatment Centre, or did we just make a decision, let's just move the whole program? Did we give that some thought, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return to Question 6-15(4): Rationale For Treatment Centre Relocation

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, in fact we did look at Somba K'e probably over a year ago now, a year-and-a-half ago, in terms of its potential. There was a technical review done, there was a program assessment done, and it was determined that because of the distance and the required changes that would be necessary in the state of the building that it wasn't found to be appropriate for a child welfare facility. So there was work done, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Question 7-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre Employees

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question also has to do with the Member's statement earlier that I made with regard to the transfer of the Territorial Treatment Centre. Mr. Speaker, there are lots of issues involved in this with respect to the decision, but I think the more important and crucial question that I'm hearing from the people impacted are the way in which this has been done. Mr. Speaker, as I stated, I don't think any of us wants to hear the bad news that within a year or two we're going to lose our jobs that we love, that we have been trying to do and are committed to and such. But if that was to happen, I think we would like to be told in a more respectful manner than reading it on the front page of the newspaper. It seems that because these 27 people are not government employees and they're not unionized, where there has to be more process in place, it seems that they're really hurt. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that these employees are really hurt that their jobs and their lives are being treated as though they're not as valuable as the government employees. Has the Minister and the department given any thought to being more sensitive to these people who are being personally impacted with the loss of their jobs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 7-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre Employees

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the value of the jobs that these people do is very high. The work they do is very important, dealing with children, and we are attempting to be as sensitive as possible. But if I can hearken back to the previous session when there were discussions of closures in other communities, it is an issue that causes, understandably, distress and concern in the community among those who are directly affected and we're trying to be very sensitive. We met with the contractor and we've talked with the department. We're working out a plan to be as mindful as possible as we look at the transition of the impact it's going to have on the current employees. I want to just categorically assure everybody that the fact that this is a contract does not in any way diminish the value or how they are regarded in any less way than government

employees would be. They provide a valuable service and we're looking to be as mindful as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 7-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre Employees

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know when that meeting that the Minister refers to has taken place. As far as I'm aware, the employees impacted have learned about their job loss through the mainstream media. So I'm gathering that the Minister and his officials met with these employees after the fact. Now, I think that is a problem and I'd like to know if the Minister could make a commitment to send someone to meet with these people and have more information about what is going on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 7-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre Employees

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will follow up on the Member's assertions made here in this House and, as I indicated, we will take all the steps necessary to be as mindful and sensitive as possible to the issues of the staff disruption and dislocation that may occur. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 7-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre Employees

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also stated in my Member's statement that one of the concerns is that with all this movement happening to transfer these jobs to Hay River and wherever else, what is not certain yet is if those people who have lost jobs because of closure of Dene K'onia are going to be able to take advantage of these jobs. I tell you, the people who are losing jobs at the Territorial Treatment Centre will be even more upset if they lose their jobs and it didn't happen for the reasons that it was meant to be. So I'd like to know what's in place for the Minister to assure that in fact there are any benefits to those employees who lost their jobs in Hay River. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 7-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre Employees

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Member is asking me to comment on the fate and future of those former Justice employees, I'm not in a position to speak directly to that. I did indicate that there will be jobs coming through this contract to Hay River that will be advertised and filled. If there are interested and qualified people in Hay River, they will be, of course, given full consideration. I can offer that to the Member at this point. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 7-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre Employees

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Final supplementary, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that from what the Minister is saying there is really not a certain connection between transfer of these jobs and the loss of jobs in Hay River. What I mean by that, Mr. Speaker, is that because of the decision of the closure, politically we feel bad about that, so we'll just, you know, discontinue this contract in Yellowknife and just move these jobs to Hay River and just give it to whoever is going to take that. Is this the kind of thing the government should be doing to use people's lives and jobs for pay off and pay back? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 7-15(4): Territorial Treatment Centre Employees

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a government we should be taking measured, careful steps to look at our facilities and infrastructure across the territory to make sure that they're used to the maximum, to make sure there is as equitable distribution of resources and programs as possible. As I've indicated previously, there's a stated commitment that we're prepared to look at decentralization opportunities. We have to look at the capability of the communities and we've done all that, Mr. Speaker. I believe we've made a careful, measured decision to relocate a program to a community that has a history of dealing with child welfare facilities. It has the program requirements, capacity for service that we require, and that this, while a difficult decision, is in the end a good decision. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 8-15(4): Sahtu Land Claim Implementation

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in keeping in line with the GNWT's goals for this Assembly here, I want to ask the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs the question on the issue of the land claims implementation on some of the agreements; specifically the Sahtu Land Claims Agreement under chapter 12 on the economic measures. I understand there was a similar agreement that was signed with the Gwich'in beneficiaries and I want to ask the Minister the status as to when the Sahtu beneficiaries can see some movement or progress in terms of having their agreement also implemented under that specific chapter. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 8-15(4): Sahtu Land Claim Implementation

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a meeting that was held in November 2004, November 16th to 18th, to discuss a three-year economic measures review. The Sahtu chose not to attend that particular meeting. Since that time, the Sahtu and Gwich'in representatives met on December 8th to discuss economic measures. There was a further meeting held on April 19th of this year with a follow-up conference call on May 10th. So, Mr. Speaker, I think this issue is being

followed through with the Sahtu through the number of meetings that are being held. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 8-15(4): Sahtu Land Claim Implementation

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For whatever reasons it's taken us so long for the Sahtu, there was a letter sent to the Aboriginal Affairs department in terms of the Sahtu wanting to enter into an agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories on the economic measures. I guess I would like to ask the Minister to advise us when this letter will be discussed, or if it will be discussed as a Cabinet decision or a Ministerial discussion in terms of when they see light at the end of the day in terms of signing something with the Sahtu beneficiaries. They're very anxious to move on this and get something in place before the life of this government ceases to exist. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 8-15(4): Sahtu Land Claim Implementation

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The next meeting of the Economic Measures Working Group is scheduled for June 6th and I expect at that time or shortly following that meeting we should be able to come to an agreement on how we move forward with this. Mr. Speaker, I might mention that there's a Sahtu implementation committee meeting as well that's currently scheduled for September in Colville Lake. By then I hope we have the agreement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 8-15(4): Sahtu Land Claim Implementation

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I appreciate the response from the Minister, Mr. Speaker, in terms of some good news for the Sahtu beneficiaries. I would like to ask the Minister if he would commit to, because of the time frames -- he's looking at September as a close time frame -- maybe getting an agreement with the Sahtu that he would commit to a time frame close enough in September to say we will have a deal with the Sahtu people on this MOU with the chapter 12 of our agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 8-15(4): Sahtu Land Claim Implementation

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been difficult to schedule the meetings. This one is scheduled for September 15th in Colville Lake. It involves Canada as well, so I will, Mr. Speaker, aim at having this agreement in place and ready for discussion at that meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 8-15(4): Sahtu Land Claim Implementation

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's efforts to see if we can get an agreement signed with the Sahtu people. I don't know the details of how these agreements come about in terms of the Gwich'in situation. I'm asking if the Minister could commit, if this government could commit, to see if that within the five or six months that the agreement can be signed with this government and the Sahtu beneficiaries on chapter 12 of the Sahtu Dene/Metis Land Claim Agreement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 8-15(4): Sahtu Land Claim Implementation

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, I will commit to making every effort I can on behalf of the GNWT to do that by September. Of course, we have to have the Sahtu representatives and the representatives of Canada also on side, but we will make best efforts to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Question 9-15(4): Operation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg the indulgence of the House if I keep on repeating the same things that are maybe asked already, but I'm just trying to get some information here. Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering if the Minister could indicate whether or not there will be...I understand the existing contractor of the Territorial Treatment Centre has been given an extension for another year to help with this transfer. Is there a plan to tender this contract, or does the Minister have somebody in mind or a company in mind or a business in mind that is going to run this program in Hay River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 9-15(4): Operation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Bosco Homes has provided a very high quality of service for many years. Like any contract, their term has run out. We've given them a one-year extension to help deal with the transition and it's our hope that, through the competitive process, that they will continue to submit or will submit another expression of interest if they're interested. We intend to move on filling this contract so there is no break in service. Bosco Homes is the current provider. I believe last time it was put out to tender the only company that did apply was Bosco Homes. At this point, that's the status. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 9-15(4): Operation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to suggest that if the recent experience that Bosco Homes is having with respect to this one and in terms of what they have to deal with with very anxious staff who have been told about their layoffs in the media, I'm not sure if they'll be so keen to enter into another contract in another place with the government. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, if there is no suitable contract or any business that can operate this, is there a plan for the government to make these jobs into government jobs so that there will be enough people hired to deliver this program?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 9-15(4): Operation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in fact, Bosco Homes has indicated interest, and the intent is to transfer the contract and keep it as a contractual arrangement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 9-15(4): Operation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think one of the things the affected employees are indicating is the fact that they do a very difficult job that they need to do to deliver this program, with a very low wage in comparison to government employees. Most of them have to supplement their income with a second income in their family in order to live in Yellowknife, and it may be that that is what they will have to do in Hay River, and there is a lot of speculation as to whether or not this will be a suitable replacement for those who have lost government jobs in Hay River. So what is the Minister doing to make sure that whoever gets the contract can find the people in Hay River to do this job at very low pay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 9-15(4): Operation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of what NGOs pay their staff is one that is affecting many operations within government, including other operations in Yellowknife, especially those that are unionized who are increasing pressure for a wage parity and it's an issue that we are struggling with. The reality is we have a program run by Bosco in Fort Smith that is staffed and fully functional. It's our anticipation that we will be able to do this as well in Hay River with either the staff, a few that are going to transfer, or through the hiring process in Hay River. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 9-15(4): Operation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier the Minister answered that he will make an effort to meet with the affected employees and perhaps the administrator of the program to answer some questions or allay some of their anxieties. Will the Minister be willing to talk to them about possible severance packages, or give them more certainty about what's happening with their jobs in light of the fact that all of this is happening in the media and causing them undue hardship that could have been avoided if it was handled better? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 9-15(4): Operation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I indicated that I would follow up on the Member's assertions and that we would take every step possible to be sensitive and mindful of the situation that the affected employees are going through, and that's what we intend to do. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 10-15(4): Renovations To The Dene K'onia Facility

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a couple more questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I know the price tag that's been talked about, whether it's at the current TTC location or the renovations to Dene K'onia, is in around \$3 million. Can the Minister let us know how he intends to pay for whichever renovations that might happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 10-15(4): Renovations To The Dene K'onia Facility

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been money in the capital budget to do this. We've carried it over for the last year or so and the money that is already there, instead of being used here, will be used for the renovations of Dene K'onia.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 10-15(4): Renovations To The Dene K'onia Facility

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think it appears in last year's capital budget, at least not the last time I looked. So maybe the Minister could check that and I can check my budget document, as well. I think it was in there before, but it was taken out last year, Mr. Speaker. I know the Minister stood up earlier today and said that he's convinced that the move of the TTC would not impact the program or its clients. Can the Minister demonstrate to Members of this side of the House how that is going to happen and how it will play out that the

clients in the programs are not impacted by the move? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 10-15(4): Renovations To The Dene K'onia Facility

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there will be impacts as we move through the transition, but the quality of the program that Bosco delivers will not be impacted, in my opinion. They have a track record in Fort Smith where they have delivered a contractual program since the mid '90s, I believe, and they've invested a lot of time and effort. They have a lot of skilled people available and we'll get through the transition, and, as we have in the past, we will be provided with quality child welfare programs in Hay River. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 10-15(4): Renovations To The Dene K'onia Facility

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister commit to us today to share whatever research that his department has done in terms of looking at moving this treatment centre to Hay River? I know it hasn't come through and it goes back to the decision-making process, but nobody has been consulted on this and nobody has seen a business plan. I'd like the Minister to commit to us today that he will share whatever information he's got so that we can say we're not just making a move to make the move, but we're doing so for the benefit of the clients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 10-15(4): Renovations To The Dene K'onia Facility

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, we're going to be building a lot of the detail of this move into the business plan, but I would be happy to put together a package for the Social Programs committee and meet with them, along with the many other issues we have on the agenda to meet with them about in the next number of weeks.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Your final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

Supplementary To Question 10-15(4): Renovations To The Dene K'onia Facility

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So if I'm not mistaken, what the Minister is saying is the decision to move this program was made before any type of business analysis or business plan was conducted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is that true? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 10-15(4): Renovations To The Dene K'onia Facility

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: No, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 11-15(4): Location Of Treatment Centre Services

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, my questions, too, are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. The information that he provided earlier today indicated that about half of the residents of the TTC right now are from Yellowknife and perhaps the North Slave region, and half are from elsewhere in the NWT. That would seem to indicate that with Yellowknife as approximately half the population of the NWT, there is a local and a resident need it will be here and may continue to grow. Could the Minister, Mr. Speaker, give some indication of whether or not there is justification for establishing not only a home in the facility in Hay River, but maintaining and continuing to provide a service for Yellowknife where half of the NWT's population is located? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 11-15(4): Location Of Treatment Centre Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the intention that I have indicated is to move TTC. At present, the numbers indicate that half of the residents are from Yellowknife. Those numbers change based on demand and need from wherever the need may arise. It's the same circumstance just in Stanton, for example, where at least half the population has to travel into Yellowknife to get service, or if you want to go to the Territorial young offenders' facility in Inuvik, you have to go there. So I appreciate the concern that there may be residents in Yellowknife who have to travel to access the service, but the reality is that's what we all have to do at one time or another if we want services. We'll be making every effort to make sure that residential care is the last step that we take before all of our other options are explored and exhausted, and the intent is to keep children in their community if at all possible. In certain circumstances, that isn't the case and we have to make use of those facilities and, at present, the plan is to move that program to Hay River. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 11-15(4): Location Of Treatment Centre Services

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to continue to work on aspects of this that can help keep families and their children connected at least if not across the lake, here in our own community. If a family has a youngster in TTC right now in residential care, is this the best option for them? When TTC closes, are there any other options available in Yellowknife for continuing that kind of service for families who are based here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 11-15(4): Location Of Treatment Centre Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At present, they have one program in Yellowknife and that is the Territorial Treatment Centre. We are in the process of relocating that program and the service it provides. If children need that service, then they will have to go to Hay River to access it when that transition is made. There are other services available in Yellowknife, but at that level, should that residential program be required, it will be in Hay River. There is no plan at this point to move TTC and institute another institutional program in its place right now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 11-15(4): Location Of Treatment Centre Services

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the Minister is looking at the resources available and having a split service might not right now look feasible, but I would like to challenge the Minister on this one. Initially, we took a look at the requirements to renovate an old building and the option to put it into another one seemed the best way to go. I would really like to revisit the potential of establishing two centres, one where half the population can be served here in Yellowknife in the North Slave region and another at the potential new operation in Hay River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 11-15(4): Location Of Treatment Centre Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is an interesting challenge that the Member presents. If we are going to take that as a basis for allocation of programs in all other areas or if this is going to be a precedent, it's one that we would have to look at very carefully because of the potential implications. At present, it's a territorial facility. Territorial facilities, by definition, serve the whole territory and are located in one community. In this case, it would be located in Hay River. It's a service that will be easily accessible. It's a 35-minute flight across the lake for those children in Yellowknife who need to access that program. So it's as convenient as can be outside of Yellowknife. We will make every effort to be sensitive to all other impacts, but that is the reality at this point. Should there be added growth pressures in different areas, for example, as we look at repatriation of adults or some of our southern placements of children, then we will be looking at how we can provide those services in the North and where they would be provided. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Time for oral questions has expired. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, petitions. Item 9, reports of standing and special committees. Item 10, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 10: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**Tabled Document 1-15(4): Letter From Tulita Chief To Tulita Education Authority Re Religious Instruction In School**

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a copy of a letter I received from the chief of the Tulita Dene Band to the Tulita District Education Authority and copied to the Minister of Education. The letter and attached petition request that religion instruction be reintroduced at the Chief Albert Wright School next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 10, tabling of documents. Item 11, notices of motion. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS**Bill 1: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006**

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, May 27, 2005, I will move that Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2005-2006, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Bill 2: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 27, 2005, I will move that Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2004-2005, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

Bill 3: An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 27, 2005, I will move that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Bill 4: An Act To Amend The Education Act

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 27, 2005, I will move that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

Bill 5: An Act To Amend The Judicature Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 27, 2005, I will move that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

Bill 6: Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2005

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 27, 2005, I will move that Bill 6, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2005, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Bill 7: Personal Directives Act

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 27, 2005, I will move that Bill 7, Personal Directives Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Bill 8: An Act To Amend The Revolving Funds Act

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 27, 2005, I will move that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

Bill 9: Municipal Statutes Amendment Act

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, May 27, 2005, I will move that Bill 9, Municipal Statutes Amendment Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 13, motions. Item 14, first reading of bills. Item 15, second reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Thursday, May 26, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 26, 2005, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

